

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OES-03

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR, IR

SUBJ: IRAN NOVIN PARTY CONGRESS GETS UNDERWAY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: LARGEST EVER IRAN NOVIN PARTY CONGRESS OPENED TO OVER 14,000 PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS JANUARY 11. UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF MAJLES MAJORITY LEADER MOSTAFA ALAMUTI, CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, REPLACING MANOUCHEHR KALALI. AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF 46 FOREIGN POLITICAL PARTIES WAS MRS. DOROTHY BUSH, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHO WILL ADDRESS CONGRESS JANUARY 13. CONGRESS, WHICH INTENDED TO LAUD PAST IRAN NOVIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND GALVANIZE PROVINCIAL ACTIVISTS FOR COMING ELECTIONS, WILL CLOSE JANUARY 13. END SUMMARY.

1. THIRD QUADRENNIAN CONGRESS OF RULING IRAN NOVIN PARTY OPENED JANUARY 11 IN INDOOR SPORTS HALL OF ARYAMEHR SPORTS COMPLEX. WITH 14,221 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING 102 FOREIGN OBSERVERS REPRESENTING 46 POLITICAL PARTIES, PRESENT CONGRESS IS MORE THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREE TIMES LARGER THAN ITS 1971 PREDECESSOR.

2. AMIDST DIRECTED CHEERS OF "LONG LIVE THE SHAH," AND APPLAUSE AT EVERY MENTION OF "SHAHANSHAH ARYAMEHR," CONGRESS HEARD REPORTS FROM NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTY FIGURES ON SUCCESS OF IRAN NOVIN IN ITS PROCLAIMED ROLE AS GUARDIAN OF SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION. IN HIS REPORT TO CONGRESS, HOVEYDA STRESSED ACHIEVEMENTS OF RECENT PAST WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS IRANIAN RENAISSANCE. HOVEYDA'S FIERY DELIVERY RECEIVED STORMY APPLAUSE FROM THE OTHERWISE APATHETIC AUDIENCE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT UNDER IRAN NOVIN STEWARDSHIP, IRAN HAS EXPERIENCED AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE OF GROWTH, INAUGURATED BRUAD WELFARE PROGRAMS, AND DEVELOPED FROM AN AID RECIPIENT INTO A MAJOR DONOR NATION. HE PINPOINTED PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MANPOWER NOTING THAT GOI IS TAKING ACTION TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES. IN FOREIGN POLICY PRIME MINISTER REPEATED, INTER ALIA, FAMILIAR THEME OF NEED FOR STRENGTH TO REPEL AGGRESSION, IRANIAN DESIRE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY AND CALL FOR MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. HOVEYDA ALSO REITERATED FAMILIAR IRANIAN DEFENSE OF OIL PRICE INCREASES AS NECESSITATED BY WESTERN INFLATION AND NOTED THAT QTE PRESSURES AND THREATS UNQTE WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON OIL PRICES.

3. CONGRESS GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED BY SMOOTH ORGANIZATION NOT ONLY IN CARE AND FEEDING OF FOREIGN AND IRANIAN DELEGATES, BUT ALSO IN CONDUCT OF PARTY ELECTIONS. CONGRESS OFFICERS, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN MOSTAFA ALAMUTI (MAJORITY LEDER IN MAJLES), A FIVE-MAN CONGRESS PRESIDIUM AND A 30-MAN ELECTION COMMITTEE WERE ALL ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY AND UNOPPOSED AND AMENDMENTS TO PARTY CONSTITUTION PASSED WITHOUT DEMUR. AS FORECAST BY LOCAL PRESS, PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, WHO, AS HEAD OF POLITICAL BUREAU, WAS ALREADY LEADER OF PARTY, ELECTED SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPLACE MANOUCHEHR KALALI WHO RESIGNED FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. ELECTION OF HOVEYDA AS SECRETARY-GENERAL, ALSO ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT DISSENT, MARKS SECOND TIME IN IRAN NOVIN HISTORY THAT A PRIME MINISTER HAS HELD POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. U.S. ABLY REPRESENTED AT CONGRESS BY MRS. DOROTHY BUSH, SECRETARY OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE. MRS. BUSH, WHO ACCOMPANIED BY HUSBAND JOHN, WILL MEET PRIVATELY WITH PRIME MINISTER JANUARY 12 AND WILL ADDRESS PARTY CONGRESS JANUARY 13. FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT, MR. AND MRS. BUSH TO JOIN OTHER FOREIGN DELEGATES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRAN NOVIN SPONSORED VISIT TO SHIRAZ AND ISFAHAN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: HOVEYDA'S ELECTION AS SEC GEN REPORTEDLY RESULTS FROM UNRESOLVED PERSONALITY CONFLICTS WITHIN UPPER LEVELS OF IRAN NOVIN. ALAMUTI APPARENTLY MADE STRONG EFFORT TO SECURE THE JOB BUT WAS UNABLE TO MUSTER SUFFICIENT SUPPORT. HOVEYDA THEN CHOSEN AS ONLY CANDIDATE ON WHOM EVERYONE

COULD AGREE. GENERALLY COMMENDABLE ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS
OCCASIONALLY FLAVORED BY LAPSES SUCH AS DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR PRESS BETWEEN PARTY AND PRIMIN'S OFFICE RESULTING IN LAST
MINUTE RUSH TO MAKE ROOM ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEWSMEN IN HOTEL FAR
FROM CENTER OF ACTION. HOWEVER, SIZE AND LAVISHNESS OF CONGRESS
AND ATTENDANCE OF MANY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL
OF MINISTERIAL RANK, TESTIFY TO GROWTH IN WORLD IMPORTANCE OF
IRAN IN LAST FOUR YEARS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

6. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD UNCLASSI-
FIED PORTIONS OF THIS CABLE TO DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.
END UNCLASSIFIED.
MIKLOS

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